

## Redesigning Mysore University Library into Green Library: A Viability Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Green Library concept is gaining importance in this decade. Though existing university libraries cannot be re-build according to the LEED or IGBC standard, by adopting few technologies libraries can be redesigned to reach the Green library standard. The present article discusses on the implementation of Green Library concepts on the various sections of Mysore University Library. This study has suggested few methods towards implementation of Eco friendly atmosphere in the library.*

**KEYWORDS:** Green Libraries, Green University Libraries, Mysore University Library.

### INTRODUCTION

Libraries are More than 4000 thousand years old but the revolutions of ICT libraries are also changing. Libraries are adopting new trends and technologies as and when it emerges. Along with library 2.0, green design is an emerging trend. Libraries particularly University libraries are knowledge hub fulfilling the intellectual needs of students, research scholars and faculties. It has become a social responsibility for libraries to develop awareness about environmental concern.

Even National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) have started assessing the Universities on environmental benchmarks. As per the draft manual of NAAC, universities are judged on social impact factors of its extension programmes on the community. The institutional initiatives towards energy consciousness like whether it conducts a green campus audit and activities like energy conservation, use of renewable energy, water harvesting, efforts for carbon neutrality and e-waste management have also been incorporated. Libraries are integral part of the University and therefore there has to be green practices implemented in the library in support of this NAAC activity.

### Green Libraries

According to New World Encyclopedia, “A Green library, also known as a sustainable library, is a library built with environmental concerns in mind. Green libraries are a part of the larger green building movement”. Green or sustainable libraries are the structure that is designed, built, renovated, operated, or reused in an ecological and

resource efficient manner (Anonymous, 2008). The green library movement emerged in the early 1990s and it is gaining popularity in the field of library and information science profession.

According to the latest US Green Building Council report India has been ranked third on the list of top 10 countries in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design outside America, Canada and China occupies the top two ranks in the ranking of the top 10 countries for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) outside the US. Anna Central Library, Chennai is Asia's first LEED Gold rated Library building.

### **Green University Libraries in India**

**Karnataka University Library, Dharwad:** This eco- friendly library was stated working since 1950. The library is providing green space following the traditional Gurukul system to the students of the University with the main motto is to facilitate students for group discussion. The Library gives an open study space for the student with sitting, dirking and Wi-Fi facilities, etc. The green library situated at nearest to all P.G departments so that students can get maximum benefits.

**Mumbai University Library:** The Mumbai University Library was setup in the year 1880. The library are made with eco-friendly equipments with wood the size of the windows are wide so that proper light get in to the library. The library gives a big open space area for the readers. The library use wood as stack materials.

**Madras University Library:** It was built in the year 1907 in Indo-British style. The library use wood material in stack areas and reference hall, periodical section reading hall. The windows are big and wide and proper lights come to the reading area and fresh air came.

**Calcutta University Library:** The library is using open space and pots, plants are soothing as well as eco-friendly environment. The great height, vast open areas, thick walls, windows all through the eastern wall are some green gestures that are in built in this heritage structure as well as nurtured even today

**Delhi University Library:** Started in 1922. The Library is using Desert Coolers' is to prevent the excessive heat of the Delhi summers. It uses a pad with indigenous material 'Khus Khus'. This material is traditionally used as a curtain material that deters heat coming inside. Water is to be sprinkled to it from time to time. This library has neighborhood greens. Library has also kept indoor plants in different locations inside and outside the library both as a decorative as well as a green measure.

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Suresh & Nikam (2017) their research highlights concepts, features and elements of green library and also explains role of modern librarian towards the implementation of the concept of green library.

Gupta, et al. (2018) in their study explained the Green concept and its implementation in various areas of the Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj (C.S.J.M.) University Library. They have proposed model and suggestions of Green library for the University library in their study

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Jones and Wong (2016) conducted a study on how the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) Library formulates, develops and implements its green strategy and how the strategy has gradually reshaped its services. Their study found that there are very few academic libraries in the USA that are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified.

Koganuramath & Choukimath (2009) gave a glimpse on the concepts called, the scholars' lab, Information commons etc. In their study they discussed over space design of libraries in the present era.

Meher & Pararbhoi (2017) discussed on the various elements of green libraries. They have listed out the Indian initiative towards Greening and Green Libraries across India. They have discussed the role of librarians towards green library in their research article.

Vijayalakshmi (2012) in her article explained about green library its importance, method and benefit for going to be green.

Divya & Vijayakumar (2017) give a strategy towards implementation of Green Library techniques in all the sections of Kerala University Library and show the pictorial diagram for green library application with its recommendation.

Malode (2014) in his study, discussed on the elements and design of green library buildings. This study also gave a glimpse on the condition of Green libraries in India.

Shah, Kumar & Shah (2015) explain about the green library concept, initiative of green libraries. The study has give few suggestion for the development of library in India.

### **Mysore University Library:**

The Library started functioning in the year 1918. The inception collection of the library was around 2311 books which was housed in Jubilee building and later moved to Maharaja's college campus and finally the library shifted to new building Measuring 1,15,000 sq. feet in floor area with 1500 seating capacity at Manasagangotri Campus in 1965. Foundation stone of this functional building was laid by first UGC Chairman Prof. C. D. Deshmukh on 11th July 1960. It was inaugurated by the then President of India Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan on 7th Dec. 1965. Mysore University Library is growing to become one of the leading university libraries in the country with a rich collection of books, journals, reports, rare materials and archives, with a total collection of more than 1.2 million items in its system. The library is extending both traditional and IT related services.

### **OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

- To give a theoretical framework of green library concept and its implementation in Central library.

### **Greening Mysore University Library: Viability**

Though Mysore University Library building was constructed before global warming and climate change were critical issues the library building was built with high roofs, large walls, wide window to facilitate natural light and

air to penetrate into the building. The building has 8000 sq ft garden inside the library premises with natural vegetation which was maintained by gardening department. The library has 15 different divisions/ Sections carrying out various Library professional activities.

**Acquisition section:** This section performs the major activity of collection development/ Procurement of new books. Following are the few methods by adopting them use of paper can be reduced.

- Acquisition process involves selection, ordering and purchase. Selection and recommendation of books can be obtained through sending e- mails to the chair persons of the department.
- KOHA software facilitates online Suggestion of books by students, teachers, research scholars which can be forwarded to the chairpersons for their approval.
- Online ordering of the approved books.
- Avoiding plastic packages during book delivery.
- Sending New Arrivals list through e-mail or posting it in University Library Webpage.
- Digitization of Old accession register and maintaining new accession register in electrical format.

**2. Technical Section:** This section performs the major professional activities like Classification, Cataloguing, Indexing and preparation of New Arrival List etc. Making a card catalogue has been stopped by the library when it opted for KOHA. This is a first step taken to reduce paper use.

**3. Stack Area, Text Book Loan Section & Kannada Section:** The major collection of the library is housed in 4 storied Stack Areas. Book racks in the stack are made of steel. Though the stack is has ventilation through large number of windows books are kept in steel racks away from direct sunlight. Eco friendly bulbs can be used to save electricity instead of regular bulbs and switching off the lights when not in use can reduce the electricity utilization. Old clothes and biodegradable clothes can be used for cleaning of floors and shelves.

**4. Active Stack Area:** In this section all the newly acquired Textbooks and Reference books are available only for reference within the Library by the users. This section is well ventilated and abundant sunlight keeps this area to use lights in evening only. The chairs and study tables are made up of wood. Active stack area had given major contribution to the University library towards green library. Keeping indoor plants and pots may enhance the appearance of this section.

**5. Circulation / Membership Registration Section:** This section mainly deals with enrolment of the Students, Teaching Faculty, Office Staff / Non-teaching staff, Research Scholars etc., as members of the library. The Library has adopted automated circulation system through KOHA software but traditional method of issuing students cards are still maintained while issue and returning of books. By adopting following few steps this section can be operated completely paperless like fully automating the issue/ return and issuing no due certificate, application of membership may be made through online mode, required supporting documents may be collected in soft copy only. E-receipts may be given instead of paper receipts.

**6. Reference, Documentation and Archival Section:**

This section has the collection of reference books, rare and archival materials of historically important documents. Reference books like dictionaries; encyclopedia can be replaced by online version if it is available so that shelf space can be reduced. 125 numbers of students can sit and study at time. Seating equipments are made of wood only. Proper ventilation and sunlight provided by large windows. Indoor plants will enhance the appearance

**7. Periodical Section:** Library presently subscribes about 228 Indian Journals on specific recommendations by the Chairpersons of the P.G. Departments. The total number of journal titles in the holding from the inception of the library is about 1,26,000. Maintaining the Kardex system in software, replacement of printed news paper and magazines into electronic news papers and magazines, subscription of online journals instead of print journals etc. are few steps to be taken towards going green in this section.

**8. Digital Information Resource Center:** Library is providing Presently 270 PCs with Internet browsing facility to access thousands of e-journals, e-books, e-theses, digital repositories, etc. Library can take initiative to purchase or replace the computers to the latest star rating for reducing the consumption of electricity.

**SUGGESTION**

1. Implementation of Rain water harvesting is a must to the library building.
2. Implementation of solar panels on the roof for solar energy utilization instead of electric energy.
3. Use and re-use of papers, envelopes and file folders.
4. Library interior can be redesigned with ornamental shrubs, artificial pond etc. which makes the library environment pleasant and improves the quality of air inside the building.
5. Roof top gardening can be implemented which decreases the heating of library buildings
6. Organizing Orientation program to create awareness about eco friendly library or Go Green Concept.

**CONCLUSION**

Libraries are always inspiring many intellectuals. Now they can inspire with the social concern by adopting the Green Library concept to overcome the Global warming issues. Although budget is a constraint to build a new library with green library concept the existing library can be made green by adopting few steps. Library Professionals should act as a role models in taking initiatives to adopt environmental friendly library and encourage library users to adopt "Go Green" Concept.

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